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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
| 10/523,839 | 02/08/2005 | Yoshiomi Fujiwara | 052077 | 2367 |
| 38834 | 7590 | 12/29/2008 | | |
| WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP | | | EXAMINER | |
| 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW | | | MAPLES, JOHN S | |
| SUITE 700 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| WASHINGTON, DC 20036 | | | 1795 | |
| | | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE | |
| | | 12/29/2008 | PAPER | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/523,839 | FUJIWARA ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | John S. Maples | 1795 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2008.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 9-25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 23-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 9-22 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/8/2005/4/19/2005

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

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1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 10 October 2008 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the grounds that the two groups meet the criteria of 37 CFR 1.475(b)(1) and 1.475 (b). This is not found persuasive because as set forth in the 10 September 2008 requirement, the two groups lack the special technical feature as set forth therein.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. The specification is objected to because it is requested that applicant include --Japanese-- or similar language to describe the priority document set forth in the beginning of the specification. In addition, it is requested that the Description of the Figures on pages 9-10 set forth all of the drawing figures included: Figs. 1a-1c; Figs. 9a-9c.

3. Figures 7-12 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 9-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for inclined planes only near valleys (4b) among the ridges (4a) of an edge disk cutter (4) as page 12, lines 17-18 set forth in regards to Figure 3, does not reasonably provide enablement for the lack of or no inclined planes only near valleys among the ridges of an edge disk cutter (4). The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

The specification requires inclined planes only near valleys (4b) among the ridges (4a) of an edge disk cutter (4) and so the independent claims are required to include this claimed subject matter.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 14, 15, 21, 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is indefinite how the methods of both claims 14 and 21 can include "said inclined plane approaches a rotation shaft of said edge disk cutter as it proceeds toward the outside of said disk cutter cluster along said rotation shaft"? How can the inclined plane approach a rotation shaft and at the same time proceed toward the outside of the disk cutter cluster along the rotation shaft? This does not

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seem possible at the same time? It is also unclear to what element "it proceeds" makes reference?

Claims 15 and 22, dependent on claims 14 and 21, respectively, fall therewith.

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 9-13 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al.-US 5,136,765. (Tanaka)

Reference is made to Figures 1-6, 17 and 18 of Tanaka along with column 5, line 30-column 7, line 58. These portions of Tanaka teach a method of producing a grid-see Figure 18, comprising a rotary expander 10 that includes the claimed rolls, one of which is an edge disk cutter 9 as seen in Figure 1. This disk cutter comprises the claimed notch 3 provided at the periphery of the edge disk cutter, which notch penetrates the edge disk cutter in the thickness direction of the disk cutter. The claimed ridge is labeled numeral 2 in Figure 1 and the claimed percentage the ridge protrudes is met by the teachings shown in Tanaka because the claimed reference plane could be at any level/angle near the edge of the edge disk cutter.

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10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bollinger discloses a rotary expander for producing expanded battery grids of interest.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John S. Maples whose telephone number is 571-272-1287. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/John S. Maples/

John S. Maples
Primary Examiner
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JSM/12-20-2008